

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1276

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005

EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to invite private parties for exploration and production of natural gas from some new blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of blocks propose to be offered to private parties for this purpose; and
- (d) the estimated quantum of oil and natural gas likely to be provided from each of such blocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c):- Yes Sir. Under the Fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V), Government have invited bids for the exploration of oil and gas in 20 blocks i.e. 12 onland, 2 shallow and 6 deep water blocks. NELP provides a level playing field for both private (including foreign and Indian) companies as well as Public Sector Undertakings for the award of exploration acreages through Global Competitive Bidding.

(d) Since, these are exploration blocks, the hydrocarbon potential in the above blocks can be assessed only after discoveries are made through exploration.